

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04127 300142Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /073 W

----- 033780

O R 291425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6102

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4127

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KU

SUBJ: AMIR ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER AND

DECREES DISSOLUTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND

PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTION

1. IN UNEXPECTED ACTION (HINTED AT BY ONLY ONE NEWSPAPER,
AL-WATAN, THAT SAME MORNING) AMIR OF KUWAIT SIGNED FOUR
ORDERS (TO BE PUBLISHED AS DECREES) MORNING AUGUST 29,
HAVING MAJOR EFFECT ON KUWAIT GOVT AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 04127 300142Z

ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS, DECREES AND GRANTS OF POWER

ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

A. ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER JABIR AL-AHMAD AL-JABIR AL-SABAH AND SIMULTANEOUSLY REAPPOINTS CROWN PRINCE AS PRIME MINISTER (PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS) WITH INSTRUCTION FORM NEW CABINET.

B. SUSPENDS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ASSIGNS LEGISLATIVE POWERS TO AMIR AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. LAWS TO BE ISSUED BY AMIRI DECREE. DECREES WILL BE ISSUED TO ESTABLISH A CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMITTEE WHOSE ACTION TO REVISE CONSTITUTION "SHOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH ISLAM." COMMITTEE IS TO COMPLETE ITS REVISION WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF AUGUST 29, 1976, AND THEN THE REVISION WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY REFERENDUM OR TO NEXT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

C. LAW GOVERNING PRINTED MATTER AND PUBLICATIONS IS AMENDED BY ADDITION OF ARTICLE (35) WHICH EMPOWERS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO SUSPEND ANY NEWSPAPER THAT "SERVES THE INTEREST OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY" OR RECEIVES A SUBSIDY WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. APPEAL DIRECTED AGAINST THIS NEW PROVISION WILL BE MADE ONLY TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

D. CONSTITUTION OF NOVEMBER 11, 1962, IS "REVISED" BY SUSPENSION OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR PROVISION:

--ARTICLE 56, PARA 3, AMICH PROVIDES THAT "THE NUMBER OF MINISTERS IN ALL SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE-THIRD OF THE NUMBER OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY." (WHO NUMBER 50 EXCLUDING MINISTERS.)

--ARTICLE 107, WHICH GRANTS AMIR AUTHORITY TO DISSOLVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY DECREE AND PROVICES, INTER ALIA, THAT, "IN EVENT OF DISSOLUTION, ELECTIONS FOR THE NEW ASSEMBLY SHALL BE HELD WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWO MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF DISSOLUTION."

--ARTICLE 174, WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "EITHER THE AMIR OR ONE-THIRD OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHALL HAVE THE FIGHT TO PROPOSE THE REVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION BY AMENDING OR DELETING ONE OR MORE OF ITS PROVISIONS OR BY ADDING NEW PROVISIONS.

"IF THE AMIR AND THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS CONSTITUTING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE THE PRINCIPLE OF REVISION AND ITS SUBJECT MATTER, THE ASSEMBLY SHALL DEBATE THE BILL ARTICLE BY ARTICLE. APPROVAL BY A TWO-THIRDS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 04127 300142Z

MAJORITY VOTE OF THE MEMBERS CONSTITUTING THE ASSEMBLY SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR THE BILL TO BE PASSED. THE REVISION SHALL COME INTO FORCE ONLY AFTER BEING SANCTIONED AND PROMULGATED BY THE AMIR REGARDLESS OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 65 AND 66 OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

"IF THE PRINCIPLE OF REVISION OR ITS SUBJECT MATTER IS REJECTED, IT SHALL NOT BE PRESENTED AGAIN BEFORE THE LAPSE OF ONE YEAR FROM THE REJECTION.

"NO AMENDMENT TO THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE PROPOSED BEFORE THE LAPSE OF FIVE YEARS FROM ITS COMING INTO FORCE."
--ARTICLE 181, WHICH PROVIDES: "NO PROVISION OF THIS CONSTITUTION MAY BE SUSPENDED EXCEPT WHEN MARTIAL LAQEIS IN FORCE AND WITHIN THE LIMITS SPECIFIED BY THE LAW. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL THE MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BE SUSPENDED, NOR SHALL THE IMMUNITIES OF ITS MEMBERS BE INTERFERED WITH, DURING SUCH PERIOD."

2. IN STATEMENT BROADCAST ON KUWAIT RADIO, AMIR OUTLINED REASONS FOR ISSUANCE OF ABOVE ORDERS. HE NOTED THAT THIS ACTION GAVE HIM "GREAT PAIN," BUT THAT CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD "DETERIORATED" IN SPITE OF "GREAT PATIENCE" ON HIS PART AND ON PART OF KUWAITI PEOPLE. AMIR NOTED THAT CONSTITUTION WAS INTENDED TO ACHIEVE STABILITY AND DEMOCRACY, BUT THAT STABILITY HAS BEEN "SHAKEN" BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, SO THAT, ACTING ON HIS OATH TO PROTECT THE "HOMELAND'S" SECURITY AND STABILITY, HE ISSUED ABOVE ORDER TO REVISE CONSTITUTION. AMIR SAID "WE BELIEVE IN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY," AND NEED TO SAFEGUARD THE PEOPLE AND MAINTAIN UNITY. AMIR ORDER TO "REVISE" CONSTITUTION CONTAINS ASSERTION THAT SOME NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE "FOR THIS OWN GAIN" AND THAT THERE IS NO MORE PATIENCE FOR THOSE WHO "ABUSED" THE CONSTITUTION.

3. PRIMIN'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION, DATED AUGUST 29, ALSO READ OVER RADIO, SAYS THAT FOR LAST TWO YEARS IT HAS BEEN "IMPOSSIBLE" FOR HIM AND OTHER MINISTERS TO COOPERATE WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRIMARILY BECAUSE MUCH USEFUL LEGISLATION HAS NOT BEEN ACTED ON AND SESSIONS, THUS, HAVE BEEN WASTED. PRIMIN ALSO ALLUDES TO ATTACKS ON MINISTERS BY ASSEMBLY MEMBERS, IN SPITE OF THE "CRUCIAL SITUATION OUR AREA AND ARAB COUNTRIES ARE PASSING THROUGH."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 KUWAIT 04127 300142Z

4. EMBASSY COMMENT WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.
MAESTRONE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, REORGANIZATIONS, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KUWAIT04127
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-0134
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976089/aaaaahdz.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: harterdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ReddocGW>; RELEASED <11 JAN 2005 by harterdg>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by harterdg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIR ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER AND DECREES DISSOLUTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTION
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006